

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-26 in the application. In response to an election requirement, the Applicants provisionally selected Claims 1-7 without traverse and withdrew Claims 8-26. In previous responses, the Applicants amended Claims 1-3 and canceled dependent Claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer. In the present response, the Applicants have added Claim 27. Accordingly, Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 27 are currently pending in the application. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in paragraph 7 of the original application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,986,558 to Crawford, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagrees.

Crawford relates to providing a precharge to capacitive circuits in a distribution system in order to limit the inrush current. The precharge is provided by insertion of a precharge circuit into the fuse/circuit breaker holders of the distribution system. (*See* column 1, lines 34-38, and Figure 1.) The Examiner asserts the block assembly 30 illustrated in Figure 2A discloses the “body” recited in Claim 1 and the precharged circuits as presented in Figures 4-5 disclose the “continuity indicator circuits” as recited in Claim 1. (*See* Examiner’s Action, page 2.)

Even assuming *arguendo* that the precharged circuits equate to the continuity indicator circuits as claimed, the precharged circuits are not integrated within the body of the block assembly 30. Instead, the precharged circuits are inserted into one of the fuse/circuit breaker holders 18 of the block assembly and removed prior to insertion of the fuse holder 14 and/or circuit breaker 16. (*See* column 3, lines 38-40.) Thus, the precharged circuits do not teach “continuity indicator circuits

integrated within said dielectric body” as recited in Claim 1.

The precharged circuits also provide no suggestion of being integrated within the block assembly 30. On the contrary, the precharged circuits are designed to be inserted and removed rapidly and repeatedly from the block assembly 30. (*See* column 4, lines 50-67, and Figure 5.) Thus, Crawford fails to teach or suggest “a continuity indicator circuit integrated within said dielectric body” as asserted by the Examiner.

As such, Crawford does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claim 1 and Claim 7 which depends thereon. Crawford, therefore, does not render obvious Claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw §103(a) rejection of Claims 1 and 7 and allow issuance thereof.

Regarding new dependent Claim 27, the Applicant also fails to find where Crawford either teaches or suggests wherein at least one of the continuity faults represent an open electrical circuit with respect to at least one of the connected ones of the components. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate otherwise if the Examiner disagrees.

II. Rejection of Claims 2, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,728,616 to Cheek, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Crawford does not teach or suggest a central connector module including a continuity indicator circuit as recited in independent Claim 1. Cheek has not been cited to cure the deficiencies of Crawford but to teach the subject matter of dependent Claims 2, 4 and 6.

(See Examiner's Action, pages 3-4.) Additionally, Cheek does not cure the deficiencies of Crawford since Cheek teaches an apparatus for testing the continuity and erroneous connections of a plurality of wired connections. (See column 1, lines 30-32.) Thus, instead of disclosing a central connector module, Cheek teaches a separate device that is used to check continuity of circuits. Cheek, therefore, does not cure the deficiencies of Crawford.

As such, the cited combination of Crawford and Cheek does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claim 1 and Claims 2, 4 and 6 which depend thereon. The cited combination, therefore, does not render obvious Claims 2, 4 and 6. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 103(a) rejection of Claims 2, 4 and 6 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,323,652 to Collier, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Crawford does not teach or suggest a centralized connector module as recited in independent Claim 1. Collier discloses an electrical testing device for determining the continuity between ground terminals of an electrical power cord and determining the electrical grounding of an electrical power tool. (See Abstract.) Collier has not been cited to cure the deficiencies of Crawford but to teach the subject matter of dependent Claim 5. (See Examiner's Action, pages 4-5.) As such, the cited combination of Crawford and Collier does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claim 1 and Claim 5 which depends thereon.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claim 5 and allow issuance thereof.

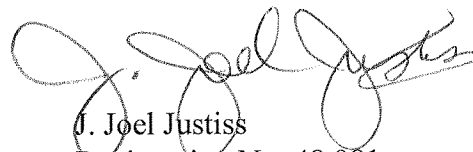
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant sees all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 27.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

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